

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to distinguish over the cited prior art. Specifically the claims have been amended to recited that the activity of the humans is in an enclosed facility and that the humans are not possessed of a predetermined response plan. The humans, as the claims are now amended to recite, provide factual information to the coordinator means so that all decisions are made by the coordinator and none are made by the humans on site. Support for these amendments are contained in the instant specification, inter alia, on pages 7 and 8 and in the figures. Entry of the amendment is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Pedersen et al. U. S. Patent No. 6,289,331, hereinafter "Pederson." Pederson relates to fire detection systems that operate in the open, using satellite surveillance and a positioning satellite, neither of which is useful for response systems that function indoors. It is noted that the claims have been amended to recite that the activity is inside an enclosed facility, which obviates the rejection under § 102(b).

It is also clear from a reading of Pederson that the fire fighting resources include both humans and drones or other devices that are remote controlled. Thus the system does not rely on control of human activity but, rather, allows human activity to proceed while making their own decisions and the purpose of the Pederson patent is to control nonhuman activity, further differencing the reference from the claims as now amended. The Examiner has stated at the bottom of paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action that the controller is "able to communicate messages to and from each communicator device of each of the humans..." whereas in fact the Pederson reference communicates with nonhuman activity. The portion of Pederson cited by the Examiner as showing conveying information to fighting personnel, col. 14, lines 13-55, is in fact a set of speakers using synthesized voice to convey information rather than to obtain it, and the information

obtained is done so by sensors, cameras, satellites and the like. This is different in kind from activity by humans in an enclosed facility such as a large building, factory or such. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

The Examiner has also noted disclosure in Pederson for each of the dependent claims 2-6, and then has noted the equivalence with the remaining claims, again based on § 102(b) of the Patent Act. However, these dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Pederson because the independent claims from which they depend are not anticipated by Pederson for the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration of these rejections is also earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner considers this case ready for action, other than by allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

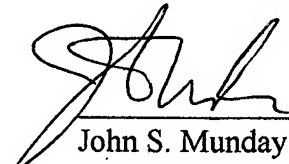
DATE: 8/26/07

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Wagner et al.

By their Attorney of Record

Telephone:
(763) 444-8296
FAX
(763) 444-8781



John S. Munday Reg. 22,636
Law Offices of John S. Munday
PO BOX 423
Isanti, MN 55040

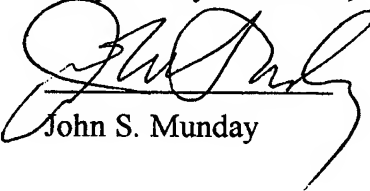


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service and First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop non fee amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date appearing below.

DATE: 26 August 2005

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Munday